WORLD / A20

Burma rejects US, UN pressure to let in aid workers

NEWS / A2

Gov't dangles big cash reward for troops to defeat NPA rebs

BUSINESS / B1

Agri sector grew 4% in first quarter

NEWS/ A7

Cory with chemo bag is healing, ethereal at Don Bosco Mass

Court orders arrest of Bishop Cruz for libel

By Tina G. Santos and Jeannette I. Andrade

ARREST THE ARCHBISHOP.

A Manila judge on Monday issued a warrant of arrest for an unusual suspect—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz—in connection with the libel charges filed against him by employees of

COURT/A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, May 14, 2008 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 156 P18



LIFELINE A student helps a schoolmate trapped under a crushed structure in a county in southwest China's Sichuan province on Tuesday, a day after a 7.9-magnitude quake rocked the province, China's worst in three decades. AFP/CHINA

New NBN-ZTE witness surfaces

GMA visit to Chinese execs at main office revealed

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo made an undisclosed trip to the headquarters of ZTE Corp. in Shenzhen, China, for a secret meeting with its officials on Nov. 2, 2006, or five months before she witnessed the signing of the National Broadband Network (NBN) contract, according to Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico.

Quoting a witness, Suplico said the secret meeting was preceded by a golf game with the ZTE officials and had been apparently arranged by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, who eventually quit his post after his purported brokering of the $329-million NBN-ZTE deal was exposed.

Suplico described the witness as a friend of his who was among the group present at the golf game and the meeting at ZTE headquarters.

Suplico said Ms Arroyo lied when she disclaimed involvement in the backroom deals behind the scandal.

NEW NBN-ZTE/A10



THE BIG PICTURE A new witness provides this picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo taken during a golf game at Shenzhen Golf Club in Shenzhen, China, on Nov. 2, 2006, which was followed by lunch with ZTE officials at ZTE headquarters.

China quake death toll hits 12,000

DUJIANGYAN, CHINA—Bodies covered with sheets lined streets on Tuesday as rescue workers dug through schools and homes turned into rubble by China's worst earthquake in three decades in a desperate attempt to rescue victims trapped under concrete slabs.

The official death toll rose to more than 12,000 in Sichuan province alone, with thousands remained buried or missing under the rubble of collapsed buildings.

But hope that many survivors would be found was fleeting. Only 58 people were extricated from demolished buildings across the quake area so far, China Seismological Bureau spokesperson Zhang Hongwei told the official Xinhua News Agency. In one county, 80 percent of the buildings had been destroyed.

"Survivors can hold on for some time. Now is not the time to give up," Wang Zhenyao, disaster relief division director at the Ministry

CHINA/A13

President's allies threaten to revoke Meralco franchise

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's allies in the Senate and the House of Representatives yesterday threatened to revoke the franchise of the Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co. if it were proved that Meralco abused its consumers by charging exorbitant rates.

"Naturally, if the evidence is clear and we have experts that would testify on how the manipulation or abuses are being made," Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, chair of the Joint Congressional Power Commission (Powercom), said when asked by reporters if cancellation of the Meralco franchise was being considered.

Santiago made the statement a day after a Powercom hearing revealed that Meralco was passing on its own electric bills worth P300 million annually and system losses to consumers and had forged "sweetheart" deals with companies owned by the Lopezes.

The administration senator said the hearing failed to extract from either Meralco or the

PRESIDENT'S/A20

Lozada tells court Mike D asked him to deny NBN scam

By Leila B. Salaverria

SENATE STAR WITNESS RODOLFO Lozada Jr. yesterday told the Court of Appeals that President Macapagal-Arroyo's former Chief of Staff Michael Defensor had asked him to cooperate with the government and deny any anomaly in the National Broadband Network (NBN) project with China because the President was hurting.

Lozada also said the lawyer initially provided to him, Antonio

LOZADA/A10



A CHILD AMONG THE RUBBLE TV grab shows a child being given first aid. The quake hammered southwest China.



Winner, loser share lessons of political ads

By Tarra Quismundo

FOR A MOMENT, A FORUM ON the power—and pitfalls—of political advertising yesterday turned into a verbal tussle between a big-spending loser and a low-budget winner in last year's senatorial elections.

LOSER/A17

Ex-GMA exec blames food crisis on corruption at DA

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A FORMER CABINET member has pointed at corruption in the Department of Agriculture as one of the reasons for the country's current food crisis.

Teresita Deles, former head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), said more cases of alleged fund misuse or misallocation in the department should be investigated to find out if public funds really went to agricultural programs and projects geared toward achieving national food security.

One such case, she said, was the alleged diversion of funds meant to provide fertilizer to farmers to the election campaign fund of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004. Then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who was implicated in the scandal, evaded a Senate investigation of the scandal and is now detained in the United States for violating immigration laws.

Deles, who resigned from the Cabinet in 2005 following allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 presidential election, was guest speaker during the

EX-GMA/A17

Ex-peace panel chair named Cabinet secretary

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appointed Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers Silvestre Bello III as the new Cabinet secretary, replacing Ricardo Saludo who had been named chair of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Bello was chair of the Philippine peace panel negotiating with the Communist Party of the Philippines (2001-2004). He was also formerly justice secretary.

Bello will take the post upon Saludo's confirmation as CSC chair by the Commission on Appointments, said Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye.

Bunye himself announced on Sunday that he was moving to the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, on July 3.

The Monetary Board will soon have vacancies with the expiration of the six-year terms of some board members, including Commission on Higher Education Chair and former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

Ms Arroyo has reportedly promised to appoint former Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and former Senators Ralph Recto, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Vicente Sotto III to key positions in her administration as payback for joining her Team Unity slate in the 2007 elections. But

EX-PEACE/A17

Second FRONTPAGE

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

P6,178,444.00

Big cash rewards for troops

Gov't dangles prize for soldiers to defeat NPA rebels

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN OFFERING CASH REWARDS TO soldiers to help defeat communist New People's Army rebels in the final two years of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, officials said yesterday.

Fat rewards

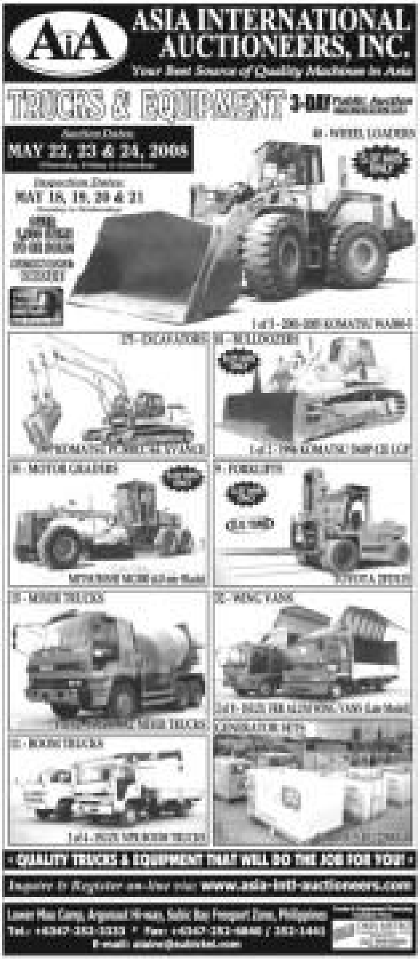
Bounty system

Peace in Mindanao

Jelac unites gov't branches for stronger judiciary

WHAT'S INSIDE

CORY: Never be afraid of suffering





HS dropouts to get chance at a diploma on June 12





MAY "TONG-PATS" KAYA DITO?

Bakit Doble-Doble ang Presyo ng Coal na binibili ng NAPOCOR kumpara sa iba?

HALIMBAWA: Ang NAPOCOR ay bumili ng fuel na nagkakahalagang humigit kumulang na **20 Bilyon Piso** noong 2007 at umano'y bibili pa ng karagdagang **66 Bilyon Piso** sa 2008.

HALIMBAWA: Nahuli ang overpricing ng NAPOCOR Officials.

Date of Solicitation of Supply	Total Volume per metric ton	Contract Unit Price (US$/MT)	Total Contract Price (Pesos)	ACR Asian Index Price (US$/MT)	Total OverPrice (Pesos)
March 29, 2007	325,000	325,000	1.38 Billion	49.50	548.08M
April 18, 2007	65,000	65,000	217.47 M	49.50	50.16M
July 20, 2007	64,000	64,000	245.26 M	52.30	78.11M
		Total Overprice in 3 Transactions Alone			676.35M

At Bosing, **WALANG BIDDING** yan! Kinasuhan nga ng BAYAN, ANAKPAWIS, AGHAM at POWER.

NAKU NAMAN!

HALIMBAWA: Sa Enero 2008, nag award ang NAPOCOR ng Coal Supply Contract sa isang **bagong 3 month old** corporation, TRANSPACIFIC Consolidated Resources, Inc na ang **capital ay P62,500 Lamang.** Tatlong Contract ang inaward na nagkakahalagang **P956 Milyon**.

GRABE NAMAN!

HALIMBAWA: Sa ngayon, ang NAPOCOR ay bumabayad ng **$ 109 per metric ton** para sa imported coal. Ang QPPL Coal Plant ay bumibili sa **$64 per metric ton.**

SOBRA NAMAN!

NAPOCOR Coal Plant
$109
metric ton

QPPL Coal Plant
$64
metric ton

Kaya ba TINGI-TINGI ang bili ng NAPOCOR sa coal?

Abangan...





Siargao: Surfer's Paradise



SURFING 101: USING YOUR GLOBE PHONE AS A MODEM FOR YOUR LAPTOP



WEATHER STATION

Corrections

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Cory: Never be afraid of suffering



CORY AQUINO smiling with her portable chemotherapy kit.

By DJ Yap

WHILE PRAYERS WERE BEING SAID at yesterday's Mass for her recovery, cancer-stricken former President Corazon Aquino stood at her [illegible] in one corner of the church, quietly—and literally—healing.

Slung on her shoulder was a small black bag, which she later told reporters, was a chemotherapy infusion pump that slowly injected medicine into her system.

"I'm undergoing chemotherapy even now," said a smiling Aquino, the picture of calm and grace. With daughter Kris, she sat in the front pew of the St. John Bosco Parish Church in Makati City.

The 75-year-old Aquino, the icon of people power, who was diagnosed with colon cancer more than two months ago, had good news to share about her condition: "This morning, my doctors told me that my latest blood works all came out positive."

"There has been a remarkable development," she told the churchgoers after the Mass, eliciting cheers and applause. The former president seemed in much better health, standing upright as she addressed her audience.

"My doctor asked, are you nauseous? I said, I can't complain. Are you losing your hair? No, I'm not," Aquino, who wore a beige blouse and skirt, told reporters earlier.

Kris, who came in her mother's trademark yellow with husband, basketball player James Yap, and their son, James, said: "I thank the millions of Filipinos who have been praying for my mom."

"I'm grateful every day that my mom's time has been extended. I'm grateful that she is not suffering," Kris said.

Yesterday, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, was Aquino's second public appearance since she was diagnosed with colon cancer. The Tuesday Mass was celebrated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

"Be strong in the Lord in his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground," Lagdameo said during his homily.

"Look at your sickness from a wide perspective. God is your strength. God is your protector, protecting you with power. God is your source of hope," he said.

According to Aquino, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, which falls on May 13, has a special meaning for her and her family.

She recalled that her late husband, the martyred Sen. Ninoy Aquino Jr., had undergone a triple bypass operation on May 13.

Another daughter, Viel, got married on the same date, and named her children Francis and Jacinta, after two of the three children, to whom the Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima, she said.

Addressing the congregation, Aquino recalled a visit by [illegible], a 14-year-old blind faith healer.

"She told me that suffering is part of the love of Jesus. We should never be afraid of suffering," she said. "I'm 75 now. I thought I had done my quota of suffering. Apparently, there are no quotas. It only ends when you are reunited with the Lord." *With Angela Casauay*

Transport groups told to answer consumers

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said a provisional fare increase for jeepneys and buses is likely to be granted, but only after the opposition from consumers is answered.

Thompson Lantion, the LTFRB chair, said his office has received a position paper from a consumer group and has given the jeepney and bus petitioners until Friday to respond.

The LTFRB met with the transport groups on Monday to consolidate the fare hike petitions from various groups.

Jeepney groups asked for a provisional fare increase of 50 centavos for the first four kilometers from the current P7.50.

Metro Manila buses want a provisional fare hike of P1 for regular buses and P2 for air-conditioned buses.

The LTFRB said there could be an increase of 10 centavos per kilometer for regular buses and 25 centavos per kilometer for aircon buses in the provinces.

Barring any other opposition to the petitions for fare hikes, the LTFRB could recommend approval within 30 days.

But the decision has to be reviewed by the National Economic and Development Authority, which will study the economic effects of an increase and give the final approval.

Fuel prices have increased 10 times since the start of the year, prompting a clamor for fare hikes and fuel subsidies from jeepney and bus drivers.

The LTFRB has initiated a rice program, which gives drivers access to NFA rice priced at P18.25 per kilogram.

Transport groups, however, said this did not solve the larger problem of continued fuel price increases.

If fuel prices increase further at the rate of 50 centavos twice a week, drivers could suffer a deficit of P140 a day.

A driver's daily income has already shrunk by about P120 since the start of 2008, according to studies.

Jeepneys consume an average of 30 liters a day in a 12- or 14-hour workday. The driver spends P1,200 or more each day just for the fuel and pays a minimum of P600 to the jeepney owner. *[illegible]*

Severino Ramos; 91

SEVERINO BUSCA RAMOS OF ASINGAN, Pangasinan, a retired executive assistant to the board of directors of the Government Service Insurance System, died in Los Angeles, California last Saturday at the age of 91.

Ramos was assistant to the general manager of the Philippine Tobacco Administration in the '70s.

He is survived by his daughter [illegible], grandchildren Gladys and [illegible], siblings and nephews and nieces.

Interment plans will be announced later.

Rosebud moves to new quarters, savors better amenities

Better place

Out of Isafp compound



MARY ONG

Militant youth leaders cry military harassment

Nani coaccused pleads not guilty


3-DAY
MALLWIDE
SALE
up to
50%
OFF
on selected items
MAY 16* • 17 • 18
*until midnight
A lot to love at Robinsons
Robinsons
Department Store

New NBN-ZTE witness surfaces

Eyewitness account

'Incognito, unannounced'

Case in Supreme Court

'First proof'

Duty to be honest



Lozada tells court Mike D asked him to deny NBN scam

Going abroad

Demolition job

'Refuge from the lies'

'Anguish moment'



LONG WEARY LINE Residents evacuate Beichuan in southwest China's Sichuan province on Tuesday, a day after China's biggest earthquake in a generation left thousands dead, missing or buried under the rubble of crushed communities.

China quake death toll hits

Tourists from US, UK

Aftershocks

2-meter-high rubble

Premier at scene

Court orders arr

Government's ire

Dismissed case reversed

12,000

… to Beijing Olympics

…welcomed

…rest …

Usherettes, not GROs

Apologies



TO THE RESCUE This boy was snatched from the perilous debris of a collapsed building.

GMA to send medical team to China, says Malacañang

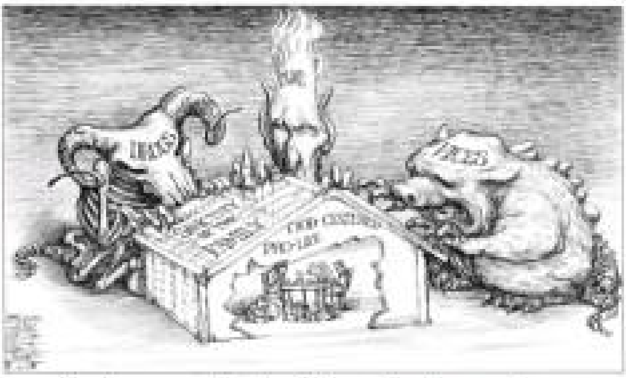
AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Opinion

Reward and punishment

Editorial



Read your electric bill and ask questions

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Identities

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Moving to Diliman

High Blood

Carlos C. Aguilar

Heritage foods

Pinoy Kasi



Michael L. Tan

Latin America: forgotten in the US vote

World View

Lydia Chavez

The day they were born

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Was Cebu's praying prelate quoted out of context?



LETTERS

Political hype, not factual revelation



Adamson screaming for truth

Ex-GMA exec blames food crisis on DA corruption



DELES

Loser, winner share lessons on political ads



PICHAY: Too identified with GMA



CAYETANO







BUNYE

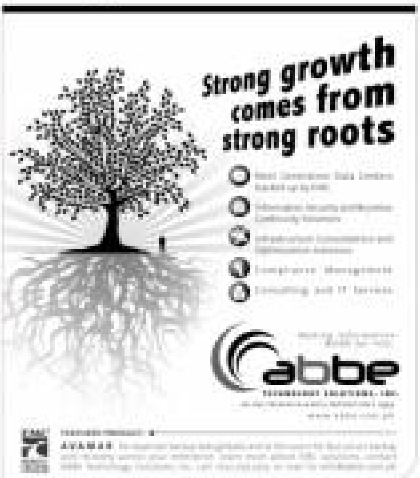


DEFENSOR



RECTO

Ex-peace panel chair named . . .



₱2B needed to relocate rail squatters

CITY OF SAN FERNANdo—The National Housing Authority (NHA) is asking for P2 billion from the government to fund the relocation of some 18,000 people occupying government property along the Philippine National Railway tracks in Pampanga.

[illegible]



MODEL FARM

[illegible]

W. Visayas govs seek cut, scrapping of taxes on oil

[illegible]

Environmentalists bring 'Thalia' to sea

[illegible]



ENVIRONMENTALISTS [illegible]

[illegible]

NPA rebels abduct brother of Manero



[illegible]

DAILY JOB

[illegible]

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BACOLOD CITY

2 girls die in Negros floods

[illegible]

■ COTABATO CITY

Floods destroy P200M

[illegible]

■ SAN PABLO CITY

2 die in SLEx road accident

[illegible]

■ TAGUM CITY

2 suspected rebels killed in clash

[illegible]

■ PAGADIAN CITY

Tricycle drivers' strike

[illegible]

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRES. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO FROM OSCAR M. LOPEZ

Dear Mrs. President,

I am writing this open letter to you to express my full support to your desire to bring down power rates. In this regard, **I have proposed that EVAT be removed and the royalties of Malampaya gas be waived** or proceeds used to subsidize low income consumers and other preferred sectors such as export industries.

Allow me to explain my proposals as well as to clarify some basic issues you have brought up in relation to Meralco, such as high electricity rates and what can be done about these rates.

First of all, I would like to sketch a short historical account of the history of the power industry in this country and the Lopez involvement in this industry. The history of the power industry can be analyzed in terms of a swinging pendulum, from private power in the pre-martial law period, to public power during the martial law years. Today, that pendulum is swinging back once more in favor of private power, especially after the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, better known as the EPIRA law.

Established in 1903 by American investors, the Manila Electric Railroad and Light Company or Meralco quickly became the dominant power company in Luzon. By the outbreak of World War II (WW II), Meralco operated not only in Metro Manila but also in 15 outlying provincial areas, as far north as Dagupan City in President Ramos' province Pangasinan down to Naga City in Camarines Sur. It was only after WW II that Meralco relinquished its franchise operation in 45 municipalities in 14 provinces to concentrate in the Manila Metropolitan Area and its environs, which was undergoing a tremendous growth in commerce and industry.

But the big expansion of the Meralco system coincided with the transfer of its ownership from American to Filipino hands headed by my father, Eugenio Lopez, in 1961. If one can talk about a "Golden Age" for Meralco and private power, it was during the decade of the 1960s. Those years were an exciting and exhilarating period for the Philippine power sector. If I now seem to describe that era with vicarious recall, it is because I lived and worked in the middle of it all, as Senior Vice President of Meralco Securities Corp., better known today as First Philippine Holdings Corporation. Consider these figures. In 1961, Meralco had a total generating capacity of about 300,000 KW (kilowatts); by 1972, its generating capacity had increased 5-fold to 1,500,000 KW, all in the form of oil-fired thermal plants. Meralco was putting up one plant every 18 months to keep up with the tremendous demand for power in its franchise area. KWH (kilowatt-hour) sales went from 1,700 GWH (gigawatt-hour) in 1961 to 5,100 GWH in 1972, or an annual compounded growth rate of 10.6%. By 1972, Meralco's customer base had grown to 612,456 from just 308,023 in 1961. And today, Meralco's customers number more than 4 million. Such a massive drive to expand capacity had never been witnessed in Meralco's service area before.

Average cost of fuel oil during the 1960's was $1.60/barrel, which translated to an average rate for all Meralco customers of 9.8 centavos per KWH during this 10-year period—very cheap power indeed for Meralco's customers. What was all the more impressive was that all this growth was financed without relying on government guarantees, but solely on Meralco's superior credit standing in both domestic and international bond markets.

The government and equipment suppliers of four major industrial countries (the U.S., Germany, Japan, and Belgium) came to accept Meralco's Mortgage Trust Indenture (MTI) and bonds as sole collateral for equipment loans. Meralco engineers likewise waged an unrelenting battle against system losses. In 1961, these losses amounted to 12.36% but in 1971 this was reduced to 7.59%.

On the other hand, let us look at the record of public power at this time. National Power Corp. (NPC) was established in 1937, and it was mandated to develop the country's hydro power resources.

From 1961-72, of the eight major power projects programmed for completion in Luzon with a total capacity of 738 MW, only two projects with a combined capacity of 287 MW were completed by NPC.

It was quite obvious that **had Meralco depended on NPC as the main source of its power supply, Meralco would have invariably suffered prolonged periods of brownouts.** In fact, the Meralco franchise area did suffer from rotating brownouts during the years 1958-59, as a result of the delays in the completion of the Ambuklao and Binga hydro plants.

Like all good things, this "Golden Age" of Meralco and private power in general came to an end by the early 1970s, as a consequence of the serious trade and balance payments deficits of the country.

More importantly, in 1973, action taken by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries or OPEC, resulted in several dramatic increases in the international prices of petroleum products. From a level of $1.60/barrel in the 1960's Meralco paid $4.60/barrel in 1973, $11.50/barrel in 1976 and $34/barrel in 1981.

These factors exchange rate, inflation and fuel prices, sounded the death knell of the old era of private entrepreneurial power. The pendulum would now swing in the direction of public power.

Henceforth, there would be no inexpensive new power generating capacity. The surge of peso-dollar exchange rates and local interest rates, meant that large foreign currency denominated investments with long payback would fall increasingly out of reach of the private sector. Government would now begin to assume the leading role in major infrastructural investment such as in power, road and transportation, etc.

Hand-in-hand with the economic crisis came the political crisis. On Sept. 21, 1972, President Marcos declared Martial Law. He padlocked Congress, rounded up and imprisoned left wing leaders, radical students, including his principal political enemies and media critics—closed down all opposition media. My father, as president of Meralco, was from 1970 onwards at political odds with Marcos as our family newspaper, the Manila Chronicle, became very critical of graft and corruption of the Marcos regime.

Thus, the full force of the new dictatorship was turned towards divesting the Lopez family of its control of Meralco. Meralco was placed under the control of the 51st Engineering Brigade of the Philippine Army, in accordance with his Letter of Instruction No. 2 ordering the Secretary of National Defense to take over management and control of all public utilities.

The rest is current history about the downfall of Marcos and how the Lopezes got back Meralco during President Aquino's regime.

Why are Philippine power rates so high vis-à-vis our Asian neighbors?

But we must ask ourselves the question: from having one of the lowest power rates in the world in the late 60's, today, the country finds itself struggling with one of the highest power rates in the region, if not the world? So what happened? There are numerous reasons, but let me zero in on a few of the most important.

Firstly, our country's drive to develop indigenous and alternative sources of power from the 1970's until the present paled immensely in comparison to our Asian neighbors. It's major obstacle that holds us back from competing effectively with neighboring Asian countries for manufacturing jobs. It's good to keep in mind that the price of electricity is ruled predominantly by the cost of fuels used for power generation.

A snapshot of how countries compared in 2003 with regards to fuels used electricity generation reveals how far ahead most of our Asian neighbors are in the development of indigenous sources of energy for their power sector.

Even today, though our indigenous fuels in the mix seem to have improved to almost 70%, we still haven't narrowed the gap in our electricity prices vis-à-vis our neighbors and our indigenous fuels in fact appear costly. Why?

This brings me to my second point. It's a sad fact that despite the rhetoric heaped on encouraging the use of indigenous fuels in the country we continue to impose heavy taxes and royalties on indigenous fuels, like natural gas and geothermal steam, which together produce more than 47% of our electricity needs. **Indigenous fuels are made artificially more expensive than imported ones because of this tax and royalty burden.** Take the case of our country's own natural gas from Camago-Malampaya. The power plants using clean natural gas from our own shores are made to look more expensive relative to power plants burning imported coal because of these taxes and royalties. This situation is sad and ironic because in neighboring countries like Thailand and Malaysia, natural gas used domestically is even subsidized, thereby encouraging more incentive to use and find more of this valuable resource. By our own DOE's reckoning, we have potentially 10 more Camago-Malampayas and another 10,000 MW (megawatts) of geothermal potential out there. But, if present policies continue, our power industry will be discouraged to build more power plants that burn either natural gas or geothermal steam, and it will be less likely that much of the untapped reserves of natural gas and geothermal steam will be brought to market much sooner.

Another major reason is that the selling price of Camago-Malampaya gas is indexed to crude oil prices. When we signed with Shell and Occidental Petroleum back in 1998, crude oil prices were only at US$15/barrel. Today the oil price has gone up to more than 8 times. Yet, I do not think that the costs of producing Malampaya have increased by anywhere close to the same multiples. So I invite you to draw your own conclusions as to the size of that windfall being reaped by the Camago-Malampaya gas sellers, especially since these gas sellers have completely paid off the Malampaya project cost as of last year. This is an area where the President can exert her influence to have the gas sellers reduce their price of natural gas in order to benefit the electricity consumers in this country. Alternatively, government can impose a windfall profit tax and use the proceeds to subsidize low income consumers.

For the 1st quarter of 2008, First Gas' selling price of P4.15/KWH to Meralco, fully P2.53/KWH (70%) is the cost of gas and approximately P1.61/KWH out of that goes to government in the form of royalties. On top of all this the consumer still pays P0.80 per kilowatt hour in the form of a 12% EVAT for power. **If you add up the royalties and 12% EVAT, you will get an amount of P2.40/KWH which may be passed on as a welcome reduction in the electricity bills of consumers.**

But under present circumstances, even if we use more indigenous fuels in our power generation mix today, that reality doesn't lead to lower electricity prices and is not likely to spur more development of indigenous energy until these structural disincentives are corrected.

Over time, we must reduce our reliance on imported fuels if we want to gain a competitive edge on power costs with respect to our Asian neighbors.

The country's efforts will go a long way if government paid closer attention to removing the taxes and royalties that grossly penalize Filipino consumers in using their own indigenous fuels. Much of these come from old antiquated Marcos-era Presidential Decrees that no longer fit the era and although they provide revenues for government, they serve to make already expensive power even more so.

I will answer the basic question we posed with another question. **If we choose to have cheaper power, why do we tax it so heavily in the first place?**

Your Excellency, if you want to give cheaper electricity rates to consumers, you must remove these EVAT taxes and royalties on natural gas.

OSCAR M. LOPEZ
Chairman of First Philippine Holdings Corporation
May 12, 2008

INQUIRER Northern Luzon



Network helps stranded marine mammals

GUSHES OF "OOHS" AND "AAHS" CAME UNsynchronized amid roars of claps and laughter from the youthful crowd at Ocean Adventure Park's El Capitan Theater in the Subic Bay Freeport on April 19.

[illegible]

Stranded

[illegible]

First of its kind

[illegible]

More hands

[illegible]

Law students

[illegible]



METRO
MARKET!MARKET!
Fort Bonifacio
SCHOOL daze
real fun, real style, really cool
pencil case
Mario d' boro
long plastic envelope
Lock & Lock food container
table sharpener
Paper Club Grade Pad
Li'l Hands water color
Lotus highlighter
colored long folders
character juice container
Crayola 64's
Crayola washable crayons
Crayola 16's
Li'l Hands scented clay
champ gear backpack
batman trolly
Barbie back pack
trolley backpack
school shoes
DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET

President's allies threaten to revoke Meralco franchise



SANTIAGO: Which of the 2 utilities is responsible for high rates?

[illegible]

Breakup proposal

[illegible]

VAT on system loss

[illegible]

Fee for pilfering

[illegible]

Rate reduction

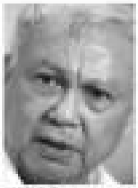
[illegible]





Joker: Throw ERC into the river

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio



ARROYO: They are supposed to police the industry



ALBANO: Undermanned?



ESCUDERO: They got paid to protect consumers.

[illegible]

'Sweetheart deals'

[illegible]

No review power

[illegible]

Foot-dragging slammed

[illegible]

Undermanned

[illegible]



THE FIRST EVER TAKE-HOME BROADBAND IS NOW AVAILABLE AT SM DEPARTMENT STORES AND PC SHOPS.

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PLDT myDSL

Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet

PC EXPRESS

VillMan

PLDT

Aplus METRO
Editor Rene G. Dipasupil



Floods displace 1,500 QC barangay residents

SHOULDER-HIGH WATERS FLOODED AN IMPOVERISHED community in Quezon City on Monday afternoon, forcing more than 1,500 people out of their houses but causing no deaths or injuries.

Affected

San Juan shanties torn down

Oil firms' relocation plan sent to Manila court for review



NEW WEAPONS VS CRIME



HEAVY LOAD

Suspected car theft ring leader killed in shootout

Posthumous promotions for 2 cops

MetroBriefs

Woman sues 'videographer'

3 buses in road accident

Bonus for city gov't employees

Aguinaldo High reunion

DID YOU KNOW

Floods displace 1,500 QC barangay residents



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

The WORLD

Burma rejects US, UN pressure on aid

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANMAR) MILITARY RULERS ON TUESday rejected growing international pressure to accept aid workers, insisting against all the evidence that it had the emergency cyclone relief effort under control.

AFP

Obama may clinch nomination

AP

WorldBriefs

Putin allies get top Cabinet posts

AFP

11 killed in Baghdad clashes

AP

12 nabbed for Iran mosque blast

AFP

Floods hit Thailand; 500 evacuated

AP

Air strikes kill 12 Afghan militants

AP

Zimbabwe rejects poll observers

86 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

Beijing 2008

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



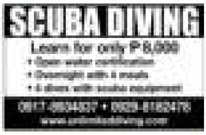
Red Bull, Coca-Cola try to keep PBA lead

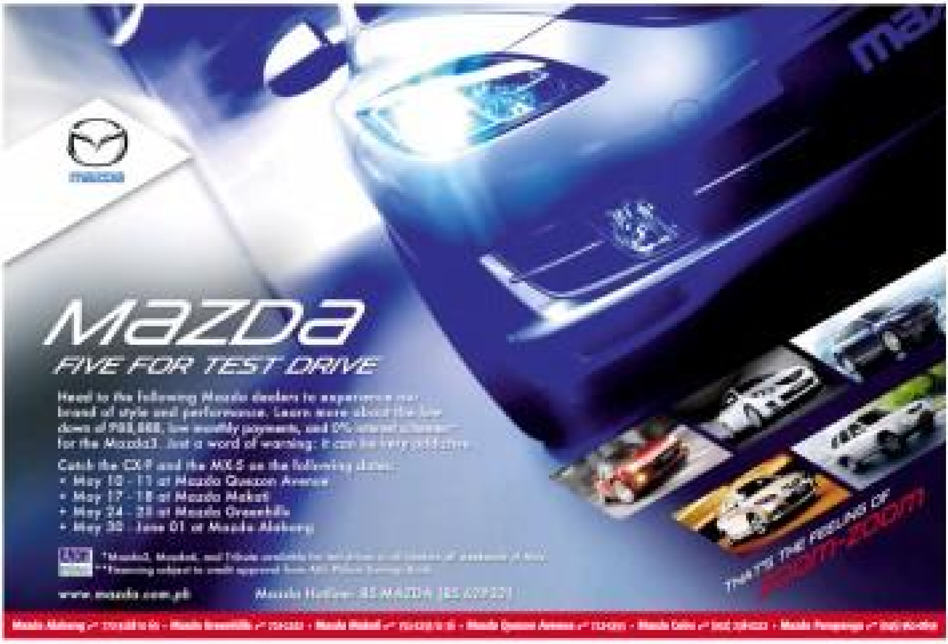
RED BULL AND COCA-COLA SLUG IT OUT AGAINST OPPOSITE foes today looking for wins that would keep them tied for the lead in the eliminations of the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

[illegible]



AARON McGhee of Talk 'N Text [illegible]









Golem tribute highlights nat'l amateur golf tourney

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE OPEN

Villamayor triumphs



[illegible]

Ex-jungolf standout fuels S'woods Asian ladies run



[illegible]

Galve rules Milo Checkmate

[illegible]

SPORTSWATCH

KidzHoops slates leveling

[illegible]

Bulleros darts on

[illegible]

CL, Manila cockers clash

[illegible]

Makati hosts JCAP derby

[illegible]

Pacquiao arrives in LA, confident of beating Diaz



THE PHILIPPINE squad joins Emelio Caligdong (third from left) in celebration after Caligdong scored in the first half against Brunei.

AFC CHALLENGE CUP

RP XI opens bid with 1-0 victory over feisty Brunei

La Salle trips UST, keeps Nike hoops record clean

Second World Slasher leg up

UST holds fund-raiser for coach

Filoil caging: Warriors eye 4-0 record

James' all-around show hands Cavs series-tying win





All-Defensive team

GAB warns Raya: Get necessary permits



SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo clips FEU, books semis berth

Olympic budget released, finally

Pinoy named Sydney Kings marketing head

Despite right import, Kings struggling to find old groove





Fifth drag race leg up Saturday


Magnificent Isolation
Exclusivity & privacy – like nowhere else in Boracay
Model Unit
Now Open for Viewing
Inauguration today at 5.30pm
2nd flr., Metrowalk, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Cocktail Party at Elbow Room follows after.
Exquisite
Accommodations
Second to none – in Fairways and Bluewater
Serenity & Exclusivity are really best enjoyed amid the most chic & posh Condotel & Vacation home in the only Golf Resort in Boracay.
You'll find all that at Maria and Margarita- the best offerings on Villas on the 9th at Fairways and Bluewater.
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Newcoast, Boracay
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(632) 6384581

BUSINESS
Editor: Raul D. Marcelo • Associate Editor: Dennis S. Maroma



Agriculture sector grew 4% in 1st quarter

Yap: Gov't on track to meeting palay growth target of 5.7%

PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE output grew at a faster pace of 4 percent in the first quarter this year from 3.3 percent a year ago, ... [illegible]

AGRICULTURE B2

IN THIS ISSUE

₱1.2-B micro housing loan plan launched

[illegible]

P1.2-B MICRO B2

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSEi COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close 1.6% higher

[illegible]



Tourist arrivals grew 8% in Q1

Koreans top visitor list as of end-March

Trees

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Heherson T. Alvarez

Eastern unit to expand cassava plantations

BSP urges banks to lend more to poor

Agriculture sector . . .

$3-B Cosco hub still in the pipeline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PLANNED $3-BILLION REGIONAL cargo hub of Chinese shipping giant Cosco Group is still on, but the facility would "take time" to complete as the fallout of big-ticket projects decreased following the ZTE National Broadband deal controversy.

Although the volume of investment flow and trade remained robust, the big projects appeared to have derailed, observed Francis Chua, presidential adviser on China trade and investments.

"Cosco is still interested, but the project would have to be given time," Chua said in an interview. "Communication with the Cosco group remains open and meetings are being arranged as usual."

He added that Cosco officials were supposed to meet with Philippine trade officials last month but this did not push through due to some "misunderstanding on the Chinese side."

Chua said that the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he also holds a position, has lined up at least five business missions this year in an effort to step up trade with Mainland China.

"Most of these missions would go to China, but there would also be some to the United States and Europe," he said. "The focus would be on food products, especially those derived from marine resources."

In an earlier interview, Chua said Cosco's project would be delayed and the company's top brass had decided to let a Singapore-based subsidiary undertake the project. Chua said he was working to have the project, which is crucial for both China and the Philippines, started promptly.

The project was supposed to start last year.

Cosco had sent a team of experts to look over prospective sites for shipping hubs at Sangley Point in Cavite, and Subic, both former naval facilities.

Cosco originally considered building a hub at Sangley Point, through which it could aggregate shipments from various points in the region for more efficient loading to the United States and other destinations across the Pacific.

However, Chua said, the Cosco team had seen the advantages of locating in Subic as well, and that it did not want to pass up on either site.

Also, Chua said, Cosco was prepared to foot the entire bill for site development, including the cost of land reclamation and port construction.

Petron exec sees no need to change business strategy

PETRON CORP. CHAIR NICASIO Alcantara yesterday said there would be no change in the firm's business strategy as the Philippine National Oil Co. approved the sale of the 40-percent share held by Aramco Overseas Co. (AOC) to the Ashmore group.

PNOC holds another 40 percent in Petron.

"Petron is a strong stand-alone company with solid fundamentals," Alcantara said in a statement. "We have uninterrupted industry leadership in the Philippines with the largest distribution and marketing network and world-class products and services, and this will not change with the new share ownership structure.

"With PNOC's decision, we will continue to move forward with initiatives that will enable Petron to achieve even higher growth," he added.

As part of its long-term diversification strategy, Petron recently commissioned the country's first petrochemical feedstock units, namely a petrofluidized catalytic cracker and a propylene recovery unit.

The company said the PetroFCC and the PRU would enable its refinery to convert black products into high-value fuels such as diesel and gasoline, as well as produce the petrochemical feedstock propylene.

Also, Petron is currently building a benzene-toluene-xylene unit, which will produce additional petrochemical feedstocks.

On Monday, PNOC announced that it had decided not to exercise its right of first offer for the AOC shares, citing two main considerations.

PNOC's decision allowed AOC and Ashmore to proceed with the transaction. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



Globe Subsidiary and CARD Bank bring GCASH to rural communities

Megaworld reports 29% jump in 1st quarter profit

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Revenues surge 63% to P4.65B

ALI to issue P4-B bonds

SMIC net profit rose 13% to ₱3.8B

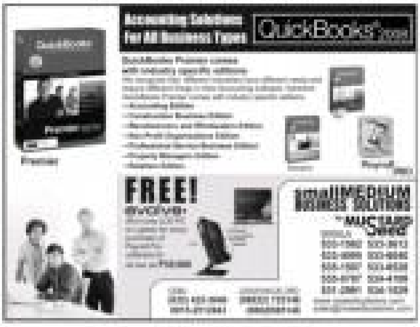


Ayala Corp. Q1 profit down 53%

One-time gains boosted '07 figures



ICTSI revenue up 45%



Globe gets TM subscribers

PSALM to pay $150M in Napocor loans



BTr may revive sale of short-term T-bills

₱1.2-B micro housing loan ...



Business

REVISED RP GROWTH FORECASTS

Analysts see economy sharply slowing to a crawl



By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

A DEEP AND PROLONGED RECESSION in the United States will likely cause a sharp slowdown in the growth of the country's economy this year, Standard Chartered said.

According to the British bank, this development may prompt the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to rethink its decision to raise interest rates to counter inflation.

Regional economist Simon Wong of Standard Chartered said the country would likely expand by a more modest pace of 4.1 percent this year and 4.4 percent next year after it posted a record growth of 7.3 percent in 2007.

GDP growth last year was the highest in 31 years.

With exports weakening and commodity prices rising, the peso would likely trade with a bearish bias over the short term, testing the 43-44 level this year before resuming its climb to 38 against the US dollar next year, Wong said during an economic briefing following the launch of Standard Chartered's new platform for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Monday night.

To deal with the slump in external demand, Wong said, the BSP would likely keep its overnight borrowing rate at 5 percent for the rest of this year, even if inflation were to average higher at 6.2 percent from 2.8 percent last year.

But Wong believed that inflation would ease to 4.1 percent by next year.

Also, investment bank Nomura shares this outlook, reducing its economic growth forecasts for the Philippines and the whole of Asia.

Nomura cited the accelerating rise in consumer prices, which it expects would take its toll on consumption and investments.

Nomura now expects the Philippines this year to post a gross domestic product growth of 4.8 percent from the previous forecast of 5.2 percent.

"In revising our economic forecasts, we have incorporated the impact of new developments in Asia, namely climbing inflation rates and a negative wealth effect arising from weak stock and property prices," Nomura said in a paper entitled "New Challenges Emerging for Asia."

Nomura said it expects the combined growth of Asian countries at 6 percent, lower than the original forecast of 6.1 percent. The bigger economies of China and India were not spared from the reduced growth outlook, as the former is now expected to grow by only 9.2 percent from 10.1 percent, and the latter by 8.4 percent from 8.7 percent.

Nomura said the slowdown in the world economy would likely affect export earnings of Asian countries, most of which depend on the United States as a market.

A recession now threatens the United States, which grew by only 0.6 percent in the first quarter.



MOTORING

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

A new game face for the all-new Lancer EX

By Charles E. Buban



THE ALL-NEW Lancer EX's sleek new exterior and invigorated driving dynamics should appeal especially to younger buyers, while mainstream consumers will appreciate its improved build quality.

YOU PROBABLY saw it/viewed the car during the recent 2nd Manila International Auto Show or at least its photos in a number of locally published magazines and there is no doubt that the all-new Mitsubishi Lancer EX is a beautiful sight to behold.

While a lot of people would suggest that a car's performance is more important (which may be true), this writer believes that what immediately catches a prospective car buyer's attention is the car's styling and not how perfect the car's steering feels or how tremendous its engine and power look.

For this ninth edition, the Lancer was completely redesigned, a move that is considered vital for Mitsubishi's on-going lineup renaissance as the company tries to wrestle more significant market share from its two tough competitors here—the Toyota Corolla Altis and the Honda Civic.

"The Lancer is one of the most important models in the company's lineup and based on the rave reviews we have been receiving, the company believes we have a formidable contender in the compact sedan market," informed Arlan Antonio Reyes, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. Advertising and Promotions assistant manager.

In the flesh, the all-new Lancer EX is an impressive sight, with its shark-like grille, sharp headlights tucked underneath an angled hood, giving it a purposeful, almost menacing, aggressive look.

Reyes shared that this design was inspired by a jet fighter's air intakes to show what Mitsubishi calls a "shark-nosed" effect.

"This edgy new look, along with options like 18-inch wheels, sport-type seats, magnesium alloy paddle shifters, Rockford Fosgate premium sound system, should attract those looking for a little flair in their personal transportation," he said.

NEW B2-2

Pinoys' love for cars stronger amid fuel price hikes



By Tessa R. Salazar

CAR MANUFACTURERS seem to shrug off successive oil price increases as just part of the inevitable, and hope that Filipino buyers would do the same. And from the looks of it, things are still going the carmakers' way, as new car launches continue left and right, and buyers aren't just window shopping.

[illegible]

Year-to-date growth

[illegible]

Continue to remain strong

[illegible]



WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT'S INSIDE. Leather seats; dual zone automatic air-conditioning; front, side and curtain airbags and the 4-Sensor/4 Channel ABS (antilock brake system).



NISSAN promises an MPV that has real-world MPV qualities with the compact nimbleness and performance of a sedan.

'MPV of Asia'

[illegible]

CV sales

[illegible]

MotorScope

Honda launches Accord, presents Tagle's paintings

[illegible]

Beat the heat with cool road trip tips

[illegible]



ACCORD presented along with E.R. Tagle paintings at Honda Cars Global City.

A new game face for the all-new Lancer EX

More than just a facelift

[illegible]

New engine

[illegible]

The addiction

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

Dependent on petroleum

The shift to bio-fuels



JAGUAR XF LAUNCH

Ford Summer Shakedown 2 May 17-18

Rough, tumble challenges

Racer Pia Boren stays alert and keeps her focus while driving

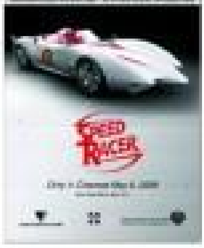


Coffee as precaution

Coffee anywhere you go

The 2008 Volvo XC70: rugged elegance







Freedom Test Drive

CRDi



ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

EXCELLENT ergonomics: the cockpit of the 2008 Volvo XC70



DSTC

Family-friendly



2BU
LIFESTYLE
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan
Chief of Correspondents: Pam Pastor

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
The D-Code

School will start again in a few weeks and students once again have to face the dreaded D—dress code. Some schools have gotten flak for being too strict on students—no tank tops, no flip flops, no halter tops. What is your school's dress code? Do you agree with it? Write a 2,000-character essay on how you dress for school and get published in 2bU. Send us photos of your school outfits too. E-mail your submissions to tc_2bu@inquirer.com.ph



Entrepreneurial Management Batch 2009 of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas will showcase their innovative products and creations exclusively in Robinsons Malls' Entrep Corner, to be held at Robinsons Place Imus, Cavite on May 18 to 31.

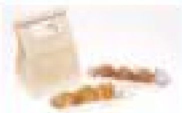
Young and bold to do business

Entrepreneur students are selling their stuff—from meatballs with rice to multi-use skirts

By Pam Pastor

THEY SELL ALL KINDS OF stuff—from meat-covered balls and noodles in boxes to multi-purpose skirts and fruit-flavored coffee. What's even better—the Entrepreneurial Management students of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas College of Business Administration can sell their wares right at the mall, at Robinsons Malls' Entrep Corner.

These young entrepreneurs will be at the Entrep Corner of Robinsons Place Imus, Cavite, until May 31.



Mekaninito

[illegible]



CREATIVE Culinary Artists [illegible]

Young and bold to do business



Crepiny





Buchikick





Yamoozaya





Sweet Pumpkin

Kape'H





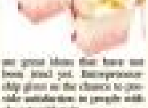
10 tips for students: How to start your own food business

Listen to the expert



Thingarujigz

Nood-A-Box



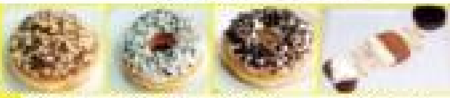



Living the hassle-free, stylish life
FEEL 100% LIGHT.
Coca-Cola
light
LIGHT TASTE. NO CALORIES.



MOCHABERRY Ice from Larry's Café

PISTACHIO Berries n' Cream, Cupcakes by Sonja



CARAMEL Kream Crunch, Krispy Kreme · HERSHEY'S Cookies & Cream, Krispy Kreme · SPECIAL Dark Chocolate, Krispy Kreme · INTENSELY Chocolate, Portico

Sugar high

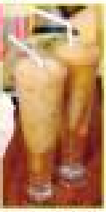
Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Ryan Lim

THIS CITY is always for those born with a sweet tooth. Get a dose of donuts, cupcakes, cheesecakes and even drinks that can give you a sugar high this summer.

Available at Bonifacio High Street.



COCONUT Cream Pie, Cupcakes by Sonja



TAMARIND Shake, Aio



WHITE Zoodle by Strawberry Kiss, Café Xocolat



FROZEN Mint Zoodle, Café Xocolat



ESPRESSO Martini, Larry's Café



MISSISSIPPI Mud Cake, New Orleans



FOUR LAYER Toblerone Torte, Tangy Lemon Meringue Pielette and NY Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Cheesecake from Chelsea



VANILLA cupcake, Cupcakes by Sonja



CHOCOLATE Marble Cheesecake, Cupcakes by Sonja


WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

2bU LIFESTYLE

ROCKING WITH PUMA.





Is young love real?

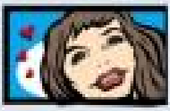
Love? Are you serious?

HOW TO HANDLE: The fling who clings





Her son calls her 'ate,' and she wants to get married soon

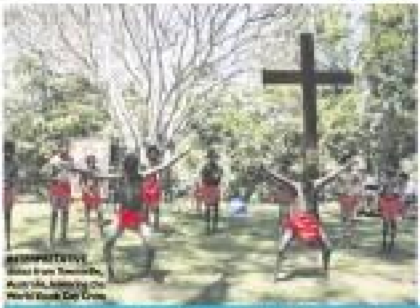


[illegible]

Life Can't Wait stories

Out of the Wreckage

[illegible]





YOUTH pilgrims invite everybody to join the celebration.



World Youth Day Sydney 2008 exhibit at Podium

FOR THE WORLD YOUTH Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08) celebrations this July, the Australian Embassy in Manila and The Podium will mount an exhibit of the event May 14-18 at the mall's Lounge Area.

The Youth Day from July 15-20 will also see the first visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Australia.

It will be an information hub especially for those who want to join the celebration in Sydney. On display will be moving photographs of the preparations all over Australia showing the young welcoming the Olympic Torch of World Youth Day, the Cross accompanied by an Icon of Our Lady.

It will also showcase photographs of the 10 World Youth Day Sydney patrons.

There will also be WYD08 memorabilia—rosaries, T-shirts, caps, bags, button pins, stickers, ballpens, and CDs of the WYD08 theme song "Receive the Power" written by Guy Sebastian and Gary Pinto.

World Youth Day Sydney 2008 is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of pilgrims.

The exhibit will display photographs of the traveling symbols of World Youth Day, the Cross and the Icon. Pope John Paul II gave the cross as a gift to the youth of the world in 1984 as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity. It has traveled the globe, and since 2003 has been accompanied by the Icon of Our Lady, another gift of Pope John Paul II, a copy of the painting "Salus Populi Romani" (protectress of the Roman People).

Also on exhibit are portraits of 10 inspirational official patrons of WYD08, done by Australian artist Richard de Wong.

The 10 WYD08 patrons are The Patroness of Australia, Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians, as well as St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Maria Goretti, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Peter Chanel, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Servant of God Pope John Paul II, Blessed Mary MacKillop, who founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Sydney in 1995, and Blessed Peter To Rot, a martyr of Papua New Guinea.

Organizers also anticipate the collaboration with aboriginal artist Richard Campbell, whose works will be used in official WYD08 memorabilia. Originally from the Gumbaynggir/Dhunghutti people, Campbell has created indigenous artworks on major Catholic themes and stories like the Fourteen Stations of the Cross, the Madonna, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection.

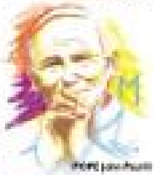
WYD08 will be held around Sydney such as Barangaroo in East Darling Harbour, Hyde Park, The Domain, Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay.

After the run at The Podium, the exhibit will have a road show in the different SM Supermalls in the provinces: SM City Clark, June 6-8; SM City Cebu, June 13-15; SM City Iloilo, June 20-22; and SM City Davao, July 4-6.

The World Youth Day Sydney 2008 Exhibit is a project of the Australian Embassy in Manila and The Podium, with the SM Supermalls, Philippine Airlines, and [illegible] Inc.



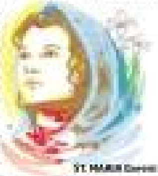
BLESSED Teresa of Calcutta



POPE John Paul II



ST. FAUSTINA Kowalska



ST. MARIA Goretti



ST. PETER Chanel



ST. THERESE of Lisieux



BLESSED Pier Giorgio Frassati

For love of country and football

I am proud to don the no. 8 shirt for the Philippine National Team

By James Joseph Younghusband
Contributor
Photos by Wesley Villarica

LET ME BEGIN THIS story with how my younger brother Phil and I were discovered to represent the Philippines—a country known for its open worship of basketball, billiards and boxing.

It's been said many times that an unnamed young lad discovered our Filipino lineage via a computer game. This mysterious boy informed the officials of the Philippine Football Federation, who then contacted us in mid-2005 asking us to represent our mother's homeland. That's all true. And the rest is history.

I was born on September 4, 1986 to a British gentleman named Philip Younghusband and a beautiful Filipina named Susan Olano. I started kicking the ball around them, when my father would bring me and my brother to the park almost everyday to play the beloved ball game.



One must understand that football (or what the Yanks would rather us to call soccer) is the national sport of England, and is part of a typical English person's daily life.

At the age of 10, I entered Chelsea Football Club's Youth Academy as an athlete scholar. It was at Chelsea where I spent years being trained by some of the world's greatest footballers, including Frank Lampard and John Terry as well as being coached later on by the Portuguese Jose Mourinho—considered the best manager in contemporary football and the king motivator and master of mind games.

Note that this is a man who has a string of Premier League records that include six trophies for Chelsea in just three years, and who remains undefeated in home league games to this day.

Today I am proud to don the no. 8 shirt for the Philippine National Team (Men's U-23 Football). The team will again see action this year versus three other countries when the Philippines vies for a slot at the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup Qualifying Round from May 13 to 17 at the Iloilo Sports Complex.

Under the leadership of Philippine Football Federation President Jose Mari Martinez and the expertise of Technical Director Dr. Jose Cañiba, the team and I hope to give glory to our country and give back to every Filipino by promoting—and playing with all our hearts—the world's most popular sport.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF BALLER. The author in action

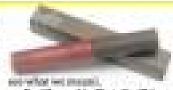
How to have glowing, sun-kissed skin



Australian brand Becca has a no-nonsense approach to cosmetics

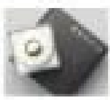
Moisturizer first

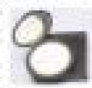
Five Becca must-haves











A good dose of chick lit



By Pam Pastor

'Remember Me?'

Sophie Kinsella

'31 Dream Street'

Lisa Jewell

'Queen of Babble'

Meg Cabot

Books available at Fully Booked.

Another serving of Spain

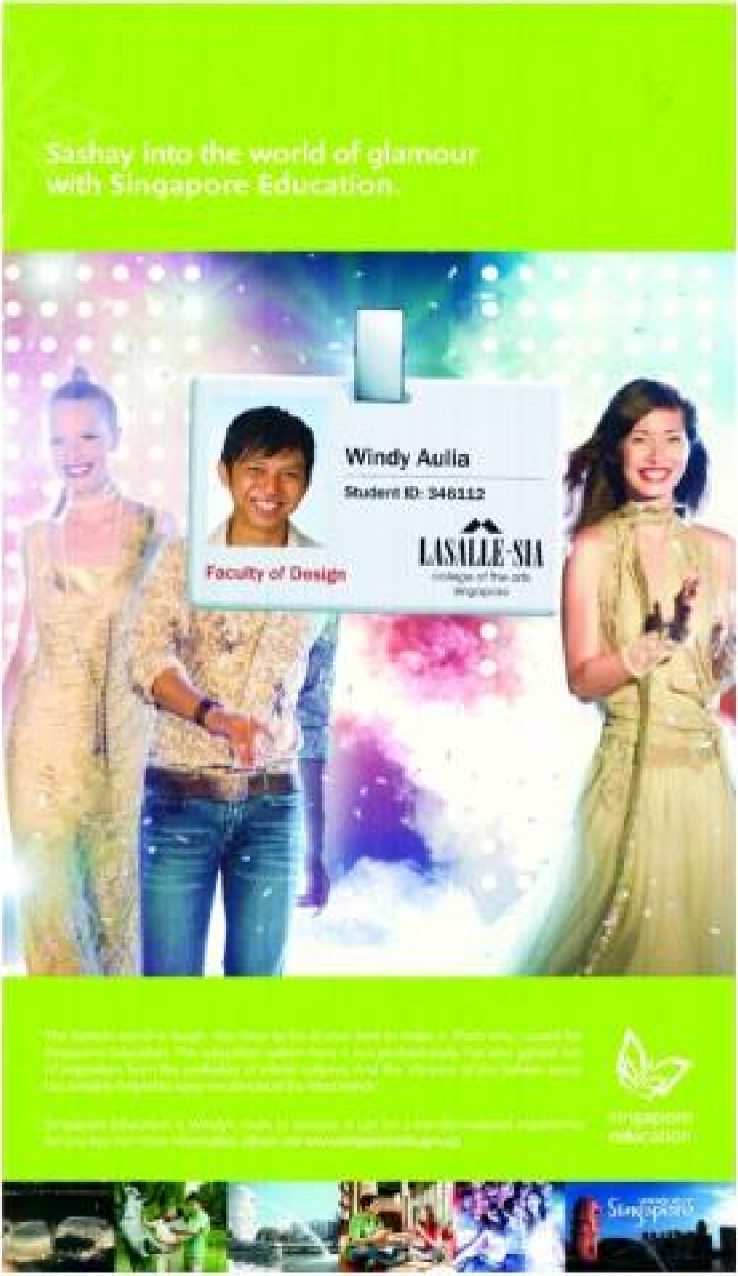


TAPAS Barcino

Barcino Gourmet combines the fiery flavors of Iberia from the kitchen to the wine cellar

Text by Cheryl Tiu

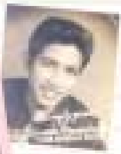




2bU LIFESTYLE

Return of the slambook





You think your mother or grandma is boring? Read their slambooks and discover how all teenage girls think alike, regardless of the generation

BLAST FROM THE PAST Pages from 1959 slambook

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN there were no online surveys or "memes"—random questions you can post in your blogs or Friendster Bulletin Boards.

[illegible]

Slambooks on the Internet

Friday's Feast (www.fridaysfeast.com)

[illegible]

The Music Player Meme

[illegible]

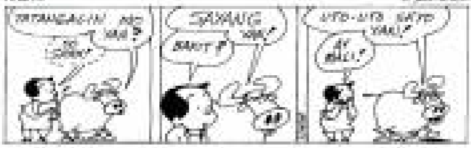
Personalized Slambook (www.mertslambook.com)

[illegible]

SHIRLEY'S PETS



A. LIPIN



TULGOK



PUGAD BABOY



DIVINE COMEDY



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



SALAMIN

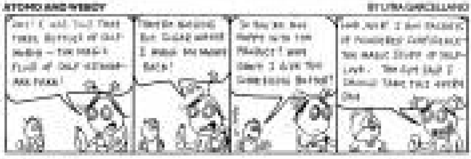


BABY BLUES

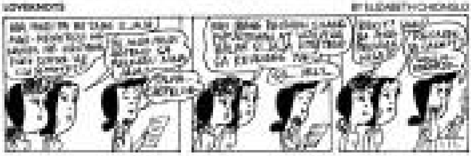
BY JERRY SCOTT

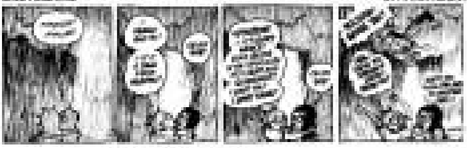


ATOMO AND WEBBY



LOVEKINOYS



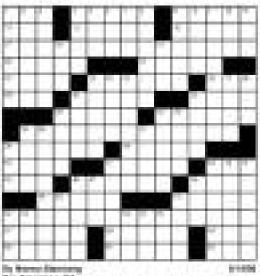


BEN

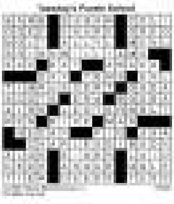
BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



Today's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

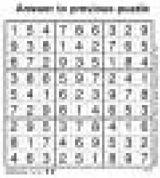
		8		4		3		
	4		3		1		5	
	2						6	
		4	5	8	2	1		
			9		6			
			7		4			
	1	9				4	3	
2								7
	8	3	1	5	7	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle



Happenings at Robinsons

Food expo in Megamall

Iron Man promo

Bonsai-making and flower arrangement workshops

Photo safari in Bicol

VDay Manila





GOINGS ON

Look eye-catching with this year's eyewear trends







[illegible]

Details in temples

[illegible]

Color

[illegible]

Customization

[illegible]

Fashion's sake

[illegible]

Return...

[illegible]



LIFESTYLE

Sarah under the sun

N

BOYS OF SUMMER

Triple treat

T



Sarah under the sun

BOYS OF SUMMER

Triple treat







Will Devaughn, Chris Tiu and Derek Ramsay are summer buddies and certified beach bums



Indian invasion on YouTube

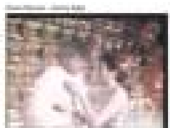
What unique entertainment

Benny Lava

Little Indian "Boy" Dancing

Indian Superman

Jimmy Adja





GIRLS OF SUMMER

Adventure seeker

By [illegible]
Photos by [illegible]

TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD model Jackie Christian is one of the lucky ones. No need to work out—her body's always ready for summer.

She [illegible] find this girl [illegible] on any crowded beach [illegible] she likes making her own quiet summer adventures.

What is your fitness regimen?

No workout for me. I just make sure I eat the right food and have a balanced diet. [illegible]—I don't deprive myself.

What's your personal style, what clothes do you usually wear?

I go for the casual and laid-back style. Tank tops and jeans paired with flip-flops are permanent fixtures in my closet.

What do you wear during the summer?

In place of jeans, I wear skirts or drawstring pants instead. At times, I opt for casual dresses.

What do you like seeing on boys in the summer?

In the city, I prefer guys in something very casual. Round neck shirts with jeans or shorts. Nothing too dressy, it makes them look too uptight. And for the beach, boardshorts of course.

What scent do you like for yourself?

[illegible]

What's your favorite thing to do during the summer?

If and when schedule permits, heading for the beach during the summer is definitely on top of my list. [illegible] crowded beaches for me though. I'd rather relax and have a peaceful & quiet environment than party.

Favorite summer destination?

Oh, it's different every year! There's always another destination in mind for the following summer.

What are your summer must-haves?

Sunglasses, lotion, flip-flops, sunblock and moisturizer.

Any unforgettable summer memory?

[illegible] The whole trip was just amazing, I absolutely loved the beach! [illegible] it's one place that I'd want to go back to sometime soon.



JACKIE searches for the next summer adventure



JACKIE [illegible]

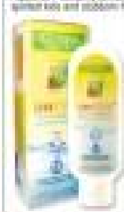


JACKIE [illegible]

How to make your family wear sunblock daily

By [illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]





[illegible]

Bonus "Indian" clip

[illegible]

E-mail [illegible]

Luis Healthy Diet

[illegible]

With a little help from Friends

Friends of Habitat Movement will aid Habitat for Humanity in the latter's goal of creating a world where everyone can have a decent place to live in



Text by Cheryl Tiu

Photos by Erik Ancaja



DONORS set up a model house.



BASECO Kids Choir

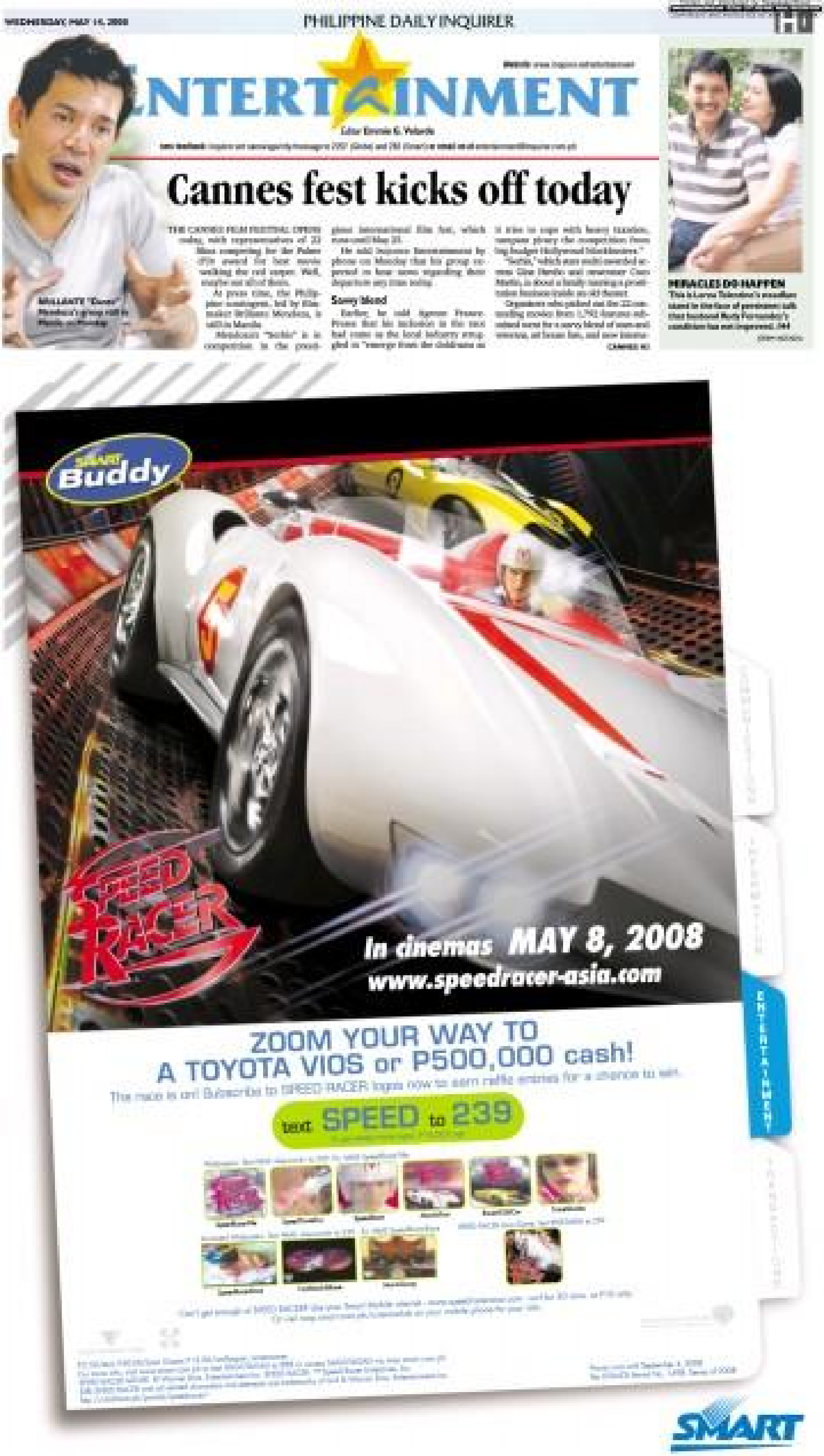


UP MANILA Chorale

Why not help build a Habitat?



PINNED pieces display the guests' commitment to Habitat's programs.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENTERTAINMENT
Cannes fest kicks off today
Sunny blend
MIRACLES DO HAPPEN
SMART Buddy
SPEED RACER
In cinemas MAY 8, 2008
www.speedracer-asia.com
ZOOM YOUR WAY TO
A TOYOTA VIOS or P500,000 cash!
The race is on! Subscribe to SPEED RACER logos now to earn raffle entries for a chance to win.
text SPEED to 239
ENTERTAINMENT
SMART

SM CINEMA movietime

METRO MANILA

IMAX

SPEED RACER

T-REX

THE PODIUM

PREMIERE CINEMA
IKAW PA RIN
CENTERSTAGE
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM/ DECEPTION
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 SPEED RACER	6 IRON MAN
2 HAROLD & KUMAR	7 IRON MAN / WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
3 PERFECT CREATURE	8 IndieSine: PITONG TAGPO
4 MEGA SNAKE	9 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
5 IKAW PA RIN	10 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

ERMITA

1 SPEED RACER	
2 HAROLD & KUMAR	6 IRON MAN
3 PERFECT CREATURE	7 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 IRON MAN	8 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
5 IKAW PA RIN	9 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

METRO EAST

1 IRON MAN	5 MEGA SNAKE
2 SPEED RACER	6 HAROLD & KUMAR
3 IKAW PA RIN	7 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
4 PERFECT CREATURE	8 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

NOVALICHES

1 IKAW PA RIN	3 IRON MAN
2 SPEED RACER	4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

PIONEER

1 IKAW PA RIN	3 PERFECT CREATURE
2 IRON MAN	4 MEGA SNAKE

STA. ROSA

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 SPEED RACER
3 IRON MAN
4 POSSESSED / WHEN LOVE BEGINS

LIPA

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 SPEED RACER
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 IRON MAN

DASMARIÑAS

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 SPEED RACER
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

IMUS

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 SPEED RACER
3 IRON MAN
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

ANGELES

1 IKAW PA RIN	3 IRON MAN
2 SPEED RACER	4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

STARMILLS

1 IKAW PA RIN	4 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 SPEED RACER	5 ASYLUM
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	6 IRON MAN

BACOLOD

1 SPEED RACER
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 STREET KINGS
5 SUPERHERO MOVIE
6 PATHOLOGY / IRON MAN

ILOILO

1 SPEED RACER
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 STREET KINGS
5 POSSESSED
6 IRON MAN

Updates on new quiz and game shows

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

Few winners

[illegible]

Movies on MGM Channel

[illegible]

On Star World

[illegible]

Cannes fest kicks off today

[illegible]



[illegible]

Latino touch

[illegible]

Competing films

[illegible]

Events, glamour

[illegible]

AFP

LT: Miracles do happen

[illegible]

'Idol' bans David Archuleta's dad



[illegible]

Warning

[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT







LIZA Lapira in "21" with Kate Bosworth.

Pinay in new H'wood thriller

COLUMBIA PICTURES' NEW THRILler, "21"—No. 1 in the US box office for two consecutive weeks—features Filipino-American actress Liza Lapira in the cast led by Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth and Jim Sturgess.

Lapira, known for her turn in the Emmy Award-winning TV drama series "Huff," plays Kianna, one of several math whiz students who head to Las Vegas every weekend armed with fake identities and the know-how to turn the odds at blackjack in their favor.

Lapira says she was astounded by the chance to work with Spacey. "I learned a lot just by watching him work."

She will next star in "Repossession Mambo" opposite Forest Whitaker.

Her film credits include [illegible], "Brown Sugar" and [illegible].

("21" opens in local cinemas May 28.)

Paolo Bediones tells personal story of survival

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

"I'LL BE DEBT-FREE BY THE END OF THIS year," Paolo Bediones declares when asked about his own personal story of survival at the "Survivor Philippines" [illegible] in Iloilo.

He finally puts to rest speculation about his failed business ventures. "I am taking care of debts that are not even mine. I trusted the wrong people and made hasty decisions."

Pao has learned his lesson well. He's wiping the slate clean as he gears up to take his survivors to a remote island (one of the Philippines') for a 39-day challenge in the local version of the groundbreaking reality series to premiere in August on GMA 7.

Created by Charlie Parsons in the 1990s, "Survivor" has 50 versions all over the globe. It sparked reality-mania worldwide. The Philippine franchise will stick to the rules by the letter. The Kapuso network is giving its all to ensure a spectacular Pinoy edition.

Hopefuls came in full force to SM Dasmariñas May 8 and 9 to get a crack at being the sole survivor who should be ready to leave his/her comfort zone for the danger zone and win P3 million tax-free.

"It's no beauty search. We are looking for interesting characters who can last without [illegible]," says Pao. "Even if you're the smartest or the most gorgeous, that doesn't give you an edge in the wilderness."

For a while, Pao thought the game was over for him. "When 'Extra Challenge' ended, I got very depressed. I would go malling just to check if people still recognized me. Hosting 'Survivor' is 'Extra Challenge' times six. I'm overwhelmed that I still have it."

His apprehensions about being incommunicado and in isolation running for 39 days? "I'm afraid I may not be able to keep the promises I made to myself, like staying fit while on the island," he muses. "And I'm challenging myself not to cry. It's not just the loneliness of being away. I may get to the point where I'll ask what I got myself into. What would I do [illegible]?"

Is he emotionally prepared to be away from his beauty queen GF, Abby Cruz? "It's going to be a tough test to our relationship. This may sound cheesy but if we don't have God in the center of our relationship, I don't know how we will last being apart for that long," he says.

He sees himself settling down with Abby after his "Survivor" stint. "I've told Abby everything about my past. Dark secrets and all. [illegible]"

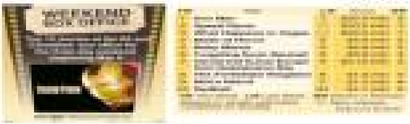
How would Pao handle it if one of the castaways flirts with him? "I'm not allowed to communicate with them. Besides, priorities change in the island. We will all be too busy finding ways to survive. No time for hanky-panky."

Other auditions for "Survivor" will be held on May 16 ([illegible]), May 17 and 18 (Baguio), May 21 and 22 (SM North Edsa) and May 23 (SM Manila).

[illegible] Show the world that Pinoys will not just survive but prevail.







OPENING TODAY

Pitong Tagpo

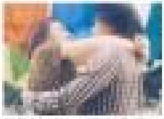
Stars Cherry Pie Picache, ...

[illegible]

Ikaw Pa Rin (Bongga Ka Boy)

Stars Robin Padilla, Ai-Ai de las Alas, ...

[illegible]



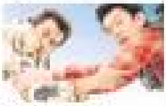
Ai-Ai delas Alas and Robin Padilla

Mega Snake

[illegible]

Harold & Kumar: Escape from Guantanamo Bay

[illegible]



Kal Penn and John Cho

Perfect Creature

[illegible]

Paolo Bediones tells...

From page 1

Colorful pair

Robin Padilla and Ai Ai de las Alas ...

[illegible]

Optimistic son

[illegible]





[illegible]

Musical show

[illegible]



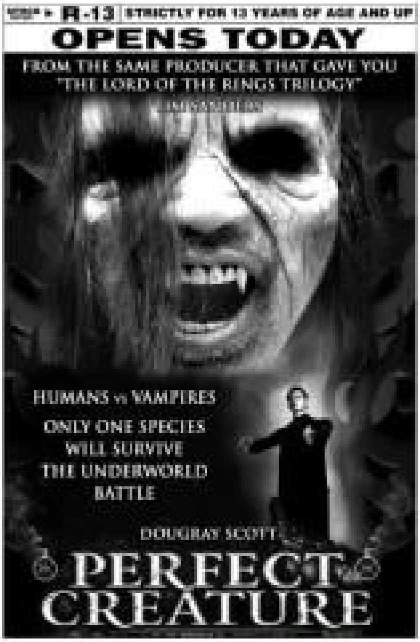


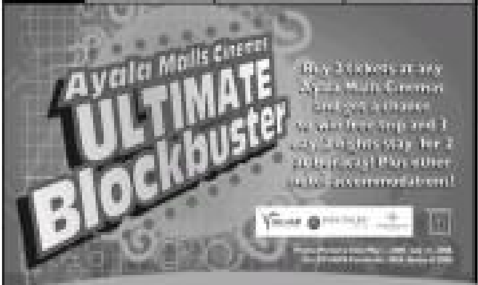
TV viewership down in US

Writers' strike hangover persists

At the Cinemas

At the Malls







One thing we ask of 'Wowowee'







Rushes

Diploma for Vanessa

Sex and the City's 5th lady

Top of the Talk Shows

A woman scorned?

Just waiting

No, please

Pledge of love

